Ragging in colleges and institution

208. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite clear directions from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the incidents of ragging in colleges and institutes have caused death and mental stress to many students in this academic session;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits; and

(c) the strategy evolved to ensure curbing of ragging during next academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Based on information obtained from the National Anti Ragging Helpline established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 316 complaints of ragging have been registered through Helpline during the current academic year.

(c) The University Grants Commission has notified on 17th June, 2009, its regulations on the Curbing of the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions. The administrative action against the students found indulging in or abetting ragging is taken by the concerned higher educational institution while the criminal action, if any, is taken by the district administration. The Regulations also provide for action against an institution or college by the affiliating University that fails to curb ragging effectively. Administrative action can be taken against a member of the faculty or staff, including the Principal, where a lapse is attributable in the matter of reporting or taking prompt action to prevent an incident of ragging or display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging. This action is to be taken by the concerned appointing authority of the institution. Therefore, the initial action in incidents of ragging against the students or Principal is to be taken by the concerned institution and by the affiliating University. The statutory regulatory bodies *i.e.* the UGC or the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), can proceed against an institution which fails to curb ragging effectively by taking any one or more of the following steps, namely, withdrawal of declaration of fitness to receive grants under section 12B of the UGC Act, withholding any gram allocated, declaring the institution ineligible for consideration for any assistance under any of the general or special assistance programmes, informing the general public, including potential candidates for admission, through a notice declaring that the institution does not possess the minimum academic standards.

Setting up of IITs in States

209. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: